

Interim Hearings – Week of May 1, 2022

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Related Categories: 87th Session, Interim hearings

Today's Committee Meetings on the LRL website is a calendar of interim committee hearings with links to agendas. Below are resources related to upcoming Interim Hearings.

- **May 3, 2022**

- **House Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety**
- **Senate Special Committee on Child Protective Services**
- **Senate Committee on Transportation**
- **Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs**

- **May 4, 2022**

- **House Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence**
- **Senate Committee on Finance**

- **May 5, 2022**

- **House Committee on Higher Education**

May 3, 2022

House Committee on **Homeland Security & Public Safety**

Charge: Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 87th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure the intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following:

- **HB 3712**, relating to the training of and policies for peace officers; and
- **"Implementation Updates,"** *The Briefing*, Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, December 2021
- **Model Policies**, Texas Commission on Law Enforcement
- **SB 24**, relating to the procedures required before a law enforcement agency hires a peace officer.
 - **Background Confirmation and TCOLE Secure Share**, Texas Commission on Law Enforcement

Charge: Study incidents of law enforcement injuries and fatalities to determine those

situations that pose the greatest risk to law enforcement. Make recommendations on best practices for increasing and preserving the safety and security of law enforcement officers, including those undercover.

- *2021 End-of-Year Preliminary Law Enforcement Officers Fatalities Report*, National Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum, 2021
- "FBI Releases 2020 Statistics on Law Enforcement Officers Killed in the Line of Duty" (Summary of statistics available in the Bureau's *Crime Data Explorer*), Federal Bureau of Investigation, May 3, 2021
- *President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice, Final Report* (Chapter 14: Law Enforcement Health and Wellness), U.S. Department of Justice, December 2020
- *National Survey on Officer Safety Training: Findings and Implications*, National Police Foundation and Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice, August 2020
- "Improving Officer Safety on the Roadways," National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice, November 11, 2018

Charge: Compare Texas' incident crime reporting requirements with those of other states and determine whether a standardized reporting requirement should be implemented for Texas law enforcement. Study opportunities to modernize and improve local and statewide data collection and dissemination throughout the criminal justice system to promote transparency and ensure uniform data collection processes.

- *Crime in Texas 2020* (National Incident-Based Reporting System), Texas Department of Public Safety
- *Crime Records Reports and Statistical Information, The Texas Uniform Crime Reporting Program*, Texas Department of Public Safety

Topic: Invited testimony from the *Texas Division of Emergency Management* to gather information on severe weather response and recovery.

- *Severe Cold Weather Events & Critical Infrastructure in Texas* (Blog), Legislative Reference Library, February 17, 2022
- *Disasters Portal* (Declared Disasters, 2017-present), *State Operations Center* (Disaster Summary Outline, Situation Reports, Emergency Services District Reports), Texas Division of Emergency Management
- *Disaster Declarations and Related Materials* (2001-present), Texas Governors database, Legislative Reference Library

Charge: Monitor the emergency operations at the Texas-Mexico border, including whether existing emergency management resources are sufficient to address a non-natural emergency, including and especially one involving a large geographic area and multiple thousands of people.

- "How the U.S. Patrols Its Borders," Council on Foreign Relations, last updated April 5, 2022

- [Texas Department of Public Safety Records of 2021 Border Deployment Costs](#) (Public Information Request Response), American Oversight, September 17, 2021
- ["Texas Once Again Tests the Boundaries of State Authority in Immigration Enforcement,"](#) Migration Policy Institute, June 29, 2021
- [Texas Border Crime and Other Criminal Activity Report](#), Texas Department of Public Safety, May 30, 2021
- [Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan 2021-2025](#), Governor Greg Abbott and Texas Department of Public Safety, January 22, 2021
- [Texas Border Security Statistics](#), Texas Department of Public Safety

Charge: Review the increase in law enforcement personnel along the Texas-Mexico border. Determine whether law enforcement has sufficient resources to address the current or any anticipated circumstances. Determine whether law enforcement needs specific or individualized training or education on matters involving border security, human trafficking or other scenarios where unaccompanied minors are involved.

- [ORR Guide: Children Entering the United States Unaccompanied](#), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement, April 13, 2022
- [Summary of Resources for State, Local, Tribal, Territorial, and Campus Law Enforcement Partners](#) (Human Trafficking, Forced Labor, and Sex Trafficking, Training and Funding Opportunities), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, April 2022
- [Texas Border Security Reporting](#) (Appropriations Compared to Agency-reported Expenditures), Legislative Budget Board, March 31, 2022
- [Border Security Appropriations](#) (Presented to Senate Committee on Border Security), Legislative Budget Board, March 8, 2022
- [Strengthening Services for Unaccompanied Children in U.S. Communities](#), Migration Policy Institute, June 2021
- [Interim Report to the 87th Legislature](#) (Charge 1 – Human Trafficking), Senate Committee on State Affairs, December 2020

Charge: Monitor the recent surge in border crossings and make recommendations for enhancing the safety and security of law enforcement, civilian populations on both sides of the Texas-Mexico border, and those entering the United States.

- [Southwest Land Border Encounters](#) (Interactive demographic charts), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, last modified April 18, 2022
- [Texas Border Security Statistics](#), Texas Department of Public Safety

Senate Special Committee on [Child Protective Services](#)
Invited testimony only.

Senate Committee on **Transportation**

Charge: Safety: Study the contributing factors leading to fatal crashes and make recommendations to prevent and reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

- **"2021 Marks Second Deadliest Year on Texas Roads"** (Press Release), Texas Department of Transportation, March 14, 2022
- **Texas Transportation Plan (TTP): 2050 Statewide Transportation Report**, Texas Department of Transportation, January 2022
- **Unified Transportation Program**, Texas Department of Transportation, August 31, 2021
- **Texas Motor Vehicle Crash Statistics - 2020**, Texas Department of Transportation
- **"Lone Star State Leads Country in 'Wrong-Way' Crash Fatalities; New Analysis Finds Fatality Rate Rising"** (Press Release), AAA Texas, March 23, 2021

Charge: Driver's License Efficiency: Study the Department of Public Safety's driver's license program operations and make recommendations to improve the efficiency of services while maintaining individual privacy and security for Texans.

- **Management, Operating Structure, Efficiencies, and Opportunities and Challenges of Transferring the Driver License Program**, Executive Summary, DPS IAC 2020: Final Report and Technical Memorandums (SB 616, 86th Legislature, R. S.), The University of Texas at Austin, Center for Transportation Research, August 27, 2020
- **"Texas Increases Security Features, Unveils New Design for Driver License/ID and License to Carry Cards"** (Press Release, Compliance with the **Federal Real ID Act**), Texas Department of Public Safety, February 26, 2020
- **"Texas Driver's Licenses: A Customer Service Challenge,"** *Fiscal Notes*, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, October 2019
- **Vertafore** (FAQ on security breach involving Texas driver license information), Texas Department of Motor Vehicles

Charge: Alternatively Fueled Vehicles: Review the Texas Department of Transportation's plan for federal funding related to alternatively fueled vehicle infrastructure development. Examine the increase of private and public owned alternatively fueled vehicles registered in the state and make recommendations for road user fee fairness between alternatively fueled vehicles and gasoline and diesel vehicles.

- **Memorandum Regarding the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program Guidance**, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, February 10, 2022
- **Study on Imposing Fees on Alternatively Fueled Vehicles (Section 1: Impact of Alternatively Fueled Vehicles on the State Highway System)**, Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, December 1, 2020
- **Texas Electric Vehicle Planning**, Texas Department of Transportation
- **Texas Transportation Data for Alternative Fuels and Vehicles**, Alternative Fuels Data Center, U.S. Department of Energy

Senate Committee on **Veteran Affairs**

Charge: State Veteran Cemeteries: Evaluate the current oversight of the Texas State Veteran Cemeteries to ensure that these sacred and essential grounds are being maintained, repaired, and treated with respect. Ensure that the needs of our veterans are being met by reviewing the number, location, and funding of the cemeteries. Examine and make recommendations for the financing mechanism for the Texas State Veterans Cemeteries to ensure sustainability.

- **List of Veterans Cemeteries (Addresses and Phone Numbers, Texas)**, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, last updated July 30, 2021
- **National Cemetery Administration: Veterans Cemetery Grants Program Did Not Always Award Grants to Cemeteries Correctly and Hold States to Standards (Action Plan and Recommendations)**, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, June 24, 2021
- **Texas State Veterans Cemeteries**, Veterans Land Board

Charge: Veteran Benefits: Explore and report on options to remove barriers for companies offering veteran benefits and consider policies that could leverage additional public-private-partnerships. Identify opportunities to connect veterans to existing business resources and available state services. Recommend ways to increase matching federal funding for veteran benefits. Review current law for consistency in eligibility for state veteran benefits and recommend any necessary changes.

- **Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors**, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 2021
- **Interim Report to the 87th Texas Legislature (Charge 2 – Mental health treatment options, Charge 5 – Economic vitality of military veterans transitioning into the workforce)**, House Committee on Defense & Veterans' Affairs, December 2020
- **"Reducing Barriers to Post-9/11 Veterans' Use of Programs and Services as they Transition to Civilian Life," BMC Health Services Research**, June 10, 2020
- **Texas Veterans Portal**, Texas.gov

Charge: Veteran Mental Health: Review the currently accepted forms of treatment for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and consider the creation of a program which would require completion of a multi-modality treatment plan including traditional talk therapy, limbic system therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), and emotionally focused individual therapy (EFIT).

- **"The National Health and Resilience in Veterans Study: A Narrative Review and Future Directions" (Post-traumatic Stress Disorder)**, *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, December 9, 2020
- **"Treating PTSD: A Review of Evidence-Based Psychotherapy Interventions,"** *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*, November 2, 2018
- **Clinical Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder**

(PTSD) in Adults, American Psychological Association, 2017

- [PTSD Treatment Basics](#), National Center for PTSD, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Charge: Veteran Mental Health: Identify the training and resources available to urban and rural first responders when assisting veterans experiencing a mental health crisis. Make recommendations for how to best support first responders in these crisis situations.

- ["Mental Health Emergencies, Law Enforcement and Deflection Pathways,"](#) *State Legislatures News*, National Conference of State Legislatures, February 9, 2022
- [Report on the Mental Health Program for Veterans for Fiscal Year 2021 As Required By Chapter 1001, Health and Safety Code, Section 1001.224](#), Texas Health and Human Services Commission, December 2021
- [Preventing Military Veteran Suicides: State Policy Options](#), *LegisBrief*, National Conference of State Legislatures, April 22, 2021
- [Staff Report with Final Results: Texas Veterans Commission](#), Sunset Advisory Commission, June 2019
- [About Us, Mental Health Providers](#), Military Veteran Peer Network
- [Mental Health First Aid](#), Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- [Serving Those Who Serve Veterans Mental Well Being](#), Texas Veterans Commission
- [TVC Veterans Mental Health Department](#) (Brochure), [Veterans Mental Health Department](#), Texas Veterans Commission

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May 4, 2022

House Committee on [Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence](#)

Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 87th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure the intended legislative outcome of all legislation.

Senate Committee on [Finance](#)

Charge: Inflation: Review and report on the effect inflation is having on the business community and state government, including state salaries, retiree benefits, the state economy, and cost of state services.

- [Consumer Price Index, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Area – March 2022](#), U.S.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, last modified April 12, 2022

- [Consumer Price Index, South Region – March 2022](#), U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, last modified April 12, 2022
- ["Prices are Rising at Historic Rates, and Rising Much Faster than Wages," PERC Blog](#), Private Enterprise Research Center, Texas A&M University, April 12, 2022
- ["The Fed's Slow Realization of the Inflation Problem," PERC Perspectives on Policy](#), Private Enterprise Research Center, Texas A&M University, Spring 2022
- [Consumer Price Index, Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land – February 2022](#), U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, last modified March 10, 2022

Charge: Inflation: Review and report on the impact of inflation on units of local governments' revenue collections and property taxpayers' tax bills, including the homestead exemption.

- [Proposed Constitutional Amendments for the May 2022 Ballot](#), House Research Organization, April 6, 2022
- [Analyses of Proposed Constitutional Amendments, 87th Legislature, 2nd and 3rd Called Sessions, May 7, 2022 Election](#), Texas Legislative Council, April 2022
- [Fiscal 50: State Trends and Analysis \(Tax Revenue Volatility\)](#), Pew Research Center, updated April 25, 2022
- [Certification Revenue Estimate, 2022-2023 Biennium](#), Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, November 4, 2021
- [Key Economic Indicators](#), Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Charge: Russia Divestiture: Examine and report on options for state asset owners to divest their positions in companies that invest in the Russian Federation.

- ["States Not Immune to Effects of War in Ukraine," State Legislatures News](#), National Conference of State Legislatures, March 22, 2022
- ["Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar's Statement on Potential Russia Divestments" \(Press Release\)](#), Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, March 2, 2022
- ["The Impact of Russia Sanctions on US States," State Legislatures News](#), National Conference of State Legislatures, February 28, 2022
- ["US States Adding to Financial Pressure on Russia Over War," AP News](#), Associated Press, February 28, 2022

Charge: State Pension Reforms: Monitor the implementation of recent statewide pension reforms to the Employees Retirement System of Texas and the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

- [NASRA Issue Brief: State and Local Government Spending on Public Employee Retirement Systems](#), National Association of State Retirement Administrators, updated February 2022
- [Funding Soundness Restoration Plans: Staff Recommendations for Rulemaking](#), Texas Pension Review Board, February 24, 2022
- ["Lawmakers Tackle Long-Term Obligations," Fiscal Notes](#), Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, September 2021

- *Interim Report to the 87th Legislature (Charge 4 – ERS and TRS pension funds)*, House Committee on Pensions, Investments and Financial Services, January 2021

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May 5, 2022

House Committee on **Higher Education**

Charge: Review progress toward the goals of the 60x30TX plan, including institutional strategies for responding to changing workforce needs and demands, including workforce education, industry certification, and degree programs to address health care shortages.

- *"The Texas 60x30 Higher Education Plan: A Midpoint Review"* (Blog), Every Texan, April 12, 2022
- *Workforce Participation Shortages*, National Conference of State Legislatures, March 23, 2022
- *60x30TX Progress Report*, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, July 2021
- *Interim Report to the 87th Texas Legislature (Charge 3 – 60x30TX plan)*, House Committee on Higher Education, January 2021
- *Mismatch? Aligning Secondary Career and Technical Education with Regional Workforce Demand*, Texas Public Policy Foundation, May 2020
- *60x30TX: Texas Higher Education Strategic Plan: 2015-2030*, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2015